

UNITED STATES PATENT APPLICATION

OF

**HUBERT CARL BURTON, JR.
(US Citizen)
104 Quail Creek Lane
Greenville, SC 29615**

FOR

LIGHT SOURCE HOUSING

LIGHT SOURCE HOUSING

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

5 **[0001]** The present invention relates generally to a light housing, and in particular, to a light housing installed in close proximity to a light source for reducing the visible glare associated with conventional lighting and for preventing the mechanical components of a light source from being noticed by an observer.

10

Description of the Related Art

[0002] There are many different types of ground-level outdoor lighting fixtures in use today. Well known ground-level outdoor lighting fixtures include, for example, floodlights and low voltage lights.

15 **[0003]** In the landscaping industry, decorative low voltage lights are commonly designed with stakes for inserting into the ground. These low voltage lights typically contain light bulbs of low-wattage and are thus, not designed to provide high intensity illumination. Instead, low voltage lights are most often staked out along patios and driveways to decoratively
20 illuminate the desired path.

[0004] High intensity floodlights are also well known and unlike low voltage lighting, are commonly used to brightly illuminate a large open area. Floodlights have been traditionally designed for mounting at a height, such as to a wall, roof corner, or privacy fence, to light up a patio,
25 pool, or yard. Unlike low voltage lighting, floodlights have not been typically used for decorative lighting. Recently, however, it has been recognized that there are advantages associated with brightly illuminating large natural features, such as trees, shrubs, and decorative ponds and waterfalls. As a result, floodlights have now been specifically designed for
30 staking into the ground to act as a touch of nighttime landscaping decoration or to highlight certain targets.

[0005] Unfortunately, when these high intensity ground-level floodlights are aimed at the target to be illuminated, many problems can arise.

5 [0006] One potential problem with high intensity ground-level floodlights is excessive glare. Glare is often present when a person looks directly toward the source of the light. Glare can be from direct or indirect routes and it is the unwanted visual discomfort caused by excessive brightness.

10 [0007] Excessive spill light is also a problem for high intensity ground-level floodlights. Spill light is the light that illuminates surfaces beyond the area intended to be illuminated. A potentially more harmful form of spill lighting is light trespass. Light trespass is light emitted by a lighting installation that falls outside the boundaries of the property on which the light installation is sited. Light trespass is particularly important
15 to prevent given the increasing recognition that allowing a high intensity floodlight to shine on your neighbor's window or yard is a nuisance and in some areas considered a violation of light trespass ordinances.

[0008] Yet another problem is that observing the visible floodlight fixture itself can detract from the overall ambience of the illuminated target.
20 For example, a decorative pond or waterfall can create a natural and relaxing feeling for an observer. If the decorative pond or waterfall is illuminated, then being able to see the floodlight itself can detract from the pleasing effect of the natural setting. Similarly, outdoor Christmas decorations are sometimes illuminated with a ground-level floodlight. If an
25 observer notices the floodlight components, it can detract from the overall Christmas scene.

[0009] While ground-level floodlights with light shields directly attached to the floodlight itself have been used, they are costly and also incompatible with staked ground-level floodlights that do not have attached
30 light shielding. Moreover, having a ground-level floodlight with a preattached light shield eliminates the option of easily removing the light shield should the user so desire. Most floodlights with preattached shields

also suffer from the problem of an observer noticing the floodlight components instead of having them blend into the natural setting.

[00010] U.S. Patent No. 2,522,230 to Komulaine discloses a light fixture having an open front structure having pairs of diverging walls and a conventional socket for mounting an incandescent lamp. The lamp is inserted through the apertures in the back of the light fixture and is secured by a nut and clamps. The lamp has a top to the housing. The light fixture of this patent is capable of being folded substantially flat and the light removed. Komulaine does not teach a housing that is completely detached and removable from the light source. Also, Komulaine does not disclose the use of stakes to insert the light fixture into the ground.

[00011] U.S. Design Patent No. Des. 166,177 to Sherbinin discloses a television lamp ornamental design. The Sherbinin lamp does not disclose a housing with a top and an opening. The Sherbinin lamp also fails to disclose at least one stake for removably inserting it into the ground.

[00012] U.S. Patent No. 4,807,100 to Hudimac discloses a light director having an elongated, opaque open-ended shield that slips over the light bulb. Hudimac also discloses that a plurality of flat, spaced apart slats extend across one open end and function to cause the light to exit in parallel beams. The light housing is disclosed as a rectangular box. However, Hudimac does not disclose the use of stakes to secure the light fixture. Also, Hudimac does not disclose an arch-shaped opening in the housing allowing the housing to be installed over the light source.

[00013] U.S. Patent No. 4,868,727 to Ponds, *et al.* (Ponds) discloses a lighting fixture including a housing for accommodating an elongated lamp bulb parallel to the window opening. The elongated lamp bulb is attached to the light fixture through either one or two connections, depending on the type of bulb used. Thus, Ponds does not disclose a removable light housing completely detached and removable from the light source. Ponds does not disclose the use of a stake to insert and secure the light fixture to the ground.

[00014] U.S. Design Patent No. Des. 311,697 to Poot discloses a reflector for lamps. As shown in the figures, the reflector has an arch-shaped slot to fit around the light source in the base of the reflector. Also, all sides of the reflector are straight. However, Poot does not disclose an arch-shaped opening in the housing, opposed to the base of the housing, enabling it to fit over the light source. Also, Poot does not disclose a curved housing or the use of a stake to insert the light fixture into the ground.

[00015] U.S. Patent No. 5,055,987 to Ellson, *et al.* (Ellson) discloses a light fixture with a bulb/lens assembly having a transparent lens with a cylindrical wall mounted atop a post. This patent is directed toward vertical of "downlighting" type of light fixtures. However, Ellson does not disclose a light fixture that is removable and detached from the light source. Also, the light fixture in Ellson completely encompasses the bulb and directs the light downward; as opposed to only covering about half the bulb as to direct the light whichever direction the light fixture is pointed.

[00016] U.S. Patent No. 5,398,180 to Lee discloses a temple light mounted on a stake with a bulb receiver integrally formed on the upper side of the bottom of the lens. The light fixture is cylindrical and encompasses the bulb completely. However, Lee does not teach a light fixture that is removable and detached from the light source. Also, the light fixture in Lee completely encompasses the bulb and directs the light downward. Lee does not teach a light housing that rests in close proximity to the light source and can shield the light from an observer looking from behind the light source.

[00017] U.S. Patent No. 5,584,574 to Haddad discloses an adjustable flood light fixture suitable for outdoor use, which can adjustable cut-off unwanted glare through the use of a truncated cone shroud, which can be rotated 360°. Haddad does not disclose a stake for removably inserting a housing into the ground. Thus, Haddad attaches the housing directly to the light source.

[00018] U.S. Patent No. 5,655,829 to Lin, *et al.* (Lin) discloses a floodlight assembly that holds multiple light sources and is capable of independently adjusting the direction of each light source. Lin also discloses one stake for removably inserting the assembly into the ground. However, Lin does not disclose a housing for shielding the light sources.

[00019] U.S. Design Patent No. Des. 394,728 to Alexander discloses a curved lampshade with sticks. The drawings disclose that the lampshade curves around the light source. There is not any enclosed top over the light source. Also, the lampshade is secured by stakes protruding down from the bottom of the lampshade. However, Alexander does not disclose an arch-shaped opening in the housing allowing the housing to be installed over the light source. Also, Alexander does not disclose that the lampshade has a top.

[00020] U.S. Design Patent No. Des. 400,289 to Wardenburg, *et al.* (Wardenburg) discloses a reflector for horticultural lighting. From the drawings, it can be seen that the reflector has a slot in the base wherein the light is inserted through the base. Also, the backside of the reflector is straight. However, Wardenburg does not disclose a curved shield or an arch-shaped opening in the housing allowing the housing to be installed over the light source. Also, Wardenburg does not disclose the use of a stake to secure the light fixture.

[00021] U.S. Patent No. 6,422,709 to Panagiotou discloses a combination light assembly including a housing having a rear wall, which curved rearwardly from an upper straight edge and downwardly to a lower straight edge. The assembly also includes a light source, which is longitudinally mounted within a casing that is attachable to the housing. The light emitted from the light source passes through a lower opening in the housing and is reflected out of the housing for indirect illumination. However, Panagiotou does not disclose an arch-shaped opening in the shield allowing the housing to be installed over the light source. Also, Panagiotou does not disclose the use of a stake to secure the light fixture.

[00022] U.S. Design Patent No. Des. 463,061 to Ludwig discloses a lighting apparatus that, from the drawings, is angled at about a forty-five (45) degrees from vertical with a curved top. Thus, the curved nature of the design will direct light downward. The lighting apparatus is positioned with two downward poles. However, Ludwig does not disclose an arch-shaped opening in the shield allowing the housing to be installed over the light source. The apparatus disclosed by Ludwig is curved in a downward direction as opposed to being curved from side to side.

[00023] Therefore, what has been missing is a way to shield a ground-level floodlight or similar light source from an observer's line of sight without using a preattached light shield. What has also been missing is a way to enhance existing ground-level floodlights with a light shield that is both economical and visually pleasing, yet remains technologically uncomplicated.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[00024] Briefly, therefore, the present invention is directed to a light housing installed in close proximity, but is not attached to, a light source. The light housing comprises a shield and a means for securing the shield. The means for securing the shield allows the shield to be removably attached to an object, such as, for example, the ground that is in close proximity to the light source. The housing acts as a block between the light source and a viewer observing from behind the light source. The housing further comprises an aperture in the housing allowing the housing to be installed over and/or around the light source. The housing also comprises a top to further block the light source.

[00025] The housing blocks light emanating from a light source, such as an in-ground staked floodlight, and keeps the light from shining directly into the eyes of a person observing the light source from behind. Thus, the overall effect is to shield the eyes of a person observing the light source. The housing also hides the components of the light source when in or near a natural setting.

[00026] The light source housing is directed to a shield having an interior portion, a top, a rear wall, and at least one sidewall, an aperture in the rear wall of the shield for removably inserting the light source, and a means for securing the shield, wherein the means for securing the shield does not attach the shield to the light source.

[00027] The present invention is also directed to a novel housing for a light source, comprising a shield having an interior portion, a top, a semi-circular rear wall, and two curved sidewalls, wherein the curved sidewalls extend from the semi-circular rear wall at substantially the same radius as the semi-circular rear wall so that the two curved sidewalls are contiguous with the semi-circular rear wall and together form a uniform semi-circular shape, an arch-shaped aperture in the rear wall of the shield for removably inserting the light source, wherein the arch-shaped aperture is open and contiguous with the lower portion of the rear wall, and a means for securing the shield, wherein the means for securing the shield comprises two round metal stakes, the metal stakes being connected to and extending below the semi-circular rear wall of the shield and function to secure the shield by inserting the stakes into the ground in close proximity to the light source.

[00028] The present invention is also directed to a novel method for shielding a light source comprising providing a shield having an interior portion, a top, a rear wall, and at least one sidewall, wherein the shield further comprises an aperture in the rear wall of the shield for removably inserting the light source, and means for securing the shield, wherein the means for securing the shield does not attach the shield to the light source.

[00029] Among the several advantages found to be achieved by the present invention, therefore, may be noted the provision of a way to shield a ground-level floodlight or similar light source from an observer's line of sight without using a preattached light shield. The present invention also provides the advantage of enhancing existing ground-level floodlights with

a light shield that is both economical and visually pleasing, yet remains technologically uncomplicated.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

5 **[00030]** Figure 1 is a perspective view that shows multiple light housings of the present invention located in close proximity to multiple ground-level floodlights arranged concentrically around a decorative pond and waterfall;

10 **[00031]** Figure 2 is a front view that shows the light housing of the present invention located behind an outlined ground-level floodlight;

[00032] Figure 3 is a rear view that shows the rear wall, aperture, top, sidewalls, and means for securing the shield of the light housing of the present invention; and

15 **[00033]** Figure 4 is a front view that shows the interior portion of the shield, aperture, means for securing the shield, top and sidewalls of the light housing of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

20 **[00034]** It should be understood that the following description of the preferred embodiments is merely exemplary in nature and is in no way intended to limit the invention or its applications or uses. Modifications and variations of the present invention will readily occur to those skilled in the art.

25 **[00035]** For purposes of the following description, the terms "upper," "lower," "left," "rear," "front," "vertical," "horizontal" and derivatives of such terms shall relate to the invention as oriented in Figure 2. However, it is to be understood that the invention may assume various alternative orientations, except where expressly specified to the contrary. It is also to be understood that the specific devices illustrated in the attached
30 drawings, and described in the following specification are simply exemplary embodiments of the inventive concepts defined in the appended claims. Specific dimensions and other physical characteristics

relating to the embodiments disclosed herein are not to be considered as limiting, unless the claims expressly state otherwise.

5 [00036] In accordance with the present invention, it has been discovered that when the light housing of the present invention is installed in close proximity to a light source, such as a ground-level floodlight, it is an effective shield between an observer and the light source. The housing also blocks light emanating from the light source and keeps the light from shining directly into the eyes of a person observing the light source from behind.

10 [00037] Referring now to the drawings, in which corresponding parts are identified with the same reference numeral, and more particularly to one embodiment of the light housing of the present invention depicted as Figure 1, in which multiple light housings 10 are placed in close proximity to a decorative waterfall and pond for preventing an observer from noticing
15 the ground-level floodlight components, thus adding to the overall effect of an illuminated object when in or near a natural setting.

[00038] Referring now to Figure 2, the light housing 10 of the present invention comprises two general components, a shield 14 and a means for securing the shield 18.

20 [00039] The shield 14 includes an interior portion 20, a top 22, a rear wall 24, at least one side wall 26, and an aperture 28 in the rear wall 24 of the shield 14 for removably inserting a light source 12. Also shown in Figure 2 in outline form, is the light source 12. In the case of Figure 2, the light source 12 in outline form is a ground-level floodlight with a plastic
25 stake for removably inserting the floodlight (e.g. the light source) into the ground.

[00040] The light housing 10 of Figure 2 has at least one means for securing the shield 18, which allows it to be removably inserted into the ground or attached to the same structure as the light source, or some
30 other suitable stabilizing structure. The means for securing the shield 18 keeps the light housing 10 stabilized in close proximity to the light source 12 during adverse weather or when an observer or pets walk nearby.

[00041] In one embodiment of the present invention, the means for securing the shield 18 is directly attached to the lower portion of the rear wall 24. The attachment can be by way of glue, screws, clamps, staples, nails, etc. In other embodiments, the means for securing the shield 18 is injection molded as a unitary construction contiguous with the shield 14.

[00042] The means for securing the shield 18 may attach, insert or secure the shield 14 to one or more locations, including, but not limited to, a deck, ground, trees, and the wall of a house or metal pole.

[00043] In one embodiment of the present invention, the means for securing the shield 18 attaches the shield 14 onto or into the ground. The means for securing the shield 18 can be selected from one or more devices, including, but not limited to, stakes (plastic, metal, or wood), nails, screws, clamps, tie downs (string or cord), Velcro®, tape, wire ties, buttons, snaps, weights, hooks, metal rods, or magnetic attachments, or any other suitable device for attaching the shield 14.

[00044] In one embodiment, the ground may be any support surface capable of receiving the means for securing the shield 18, such as dirt, grass, gravel, garden areas, concrete, wood, or a permeable material such as foam. Any such structure or location is suitable for attaching the shield 14, so long as, the light housing 10 is not directly attached to the light source 12.

[00045] Referring now to Figures 3 and 4, the means for securing the shield to the ground comprises one or more stakes, and in one embodiment, the stakes are metal stakes with a sharpened end, similar to nails. Such stakes may take any shape and may be constructed of any material that is suitable for allowing the stake to be inserted into the ground in a stable fashion. The stakes can be constructed from various high impact, weather and ultraviolet light resistant polymers and from such metals as stainless steel and aluminum. The stake preferably has a pointed tip to ease insertion into the ground. The stake may also have an "X" shaped cross-section to provide strength while inserted into the

ground. The stakes can be any length necessary to removably insert the shield into the ground.

[00046] The means for securing the shield **18** can be made of the same material as the rest of the light housing **10** or the means for securing the shield **18** may be constructed from a different material. Suitable materials for constructing the means for securing the shield **18**, include, for example, steel, aluminum, or iron alloys, thermoplastic and thermoset polymers, and cellulosic materials.

[00047] Referring now to Figure 2, the light housing **10** further comprises an aperture **28** in the shield **14** allowing the housing **10** to be installed over and/or around the light source **12**. In one embodiment, the aperture **28** can be a circular opening in the rear wall **24** of the shield **14**, which is large enough to permit the light source **12** to pass through. The aperture **28** can also be an arch-shaped opening that is large enough to permit at least some portion of the light source **12** to be inserted into. Referring now to Figure 3, the arch-shaped aperture **28** is, in one embodiment, open and contiguous with the bottom of the rear wall **24**. Thus, as depicted in Figure 2, the light housing **10** is capable of being removably slid over a light source **12** through the arch-shaped aperture **28**.

[00048] The light housing **10** also comprises a top **22** to block the visibility of the light source **12** from an observer. Referring now to Figures 2 and 3, the top **22** extends from the rear wall **24** of the shield **14** to the ends of the sidewall **26**. In one embodiment, the top is flat and extends perpendicularly at a 90° angle from the rear wall **24**. In some embodiments, the top **22** may extend past the end of the sidewall **26**. The top **22** may be formed of the same material as the shield **14** and may be a one-piece unitary construction with the shield **14**. Furthermore, the top **22** may be a flat, domed, or conically shaped structure. In other embodiments, the top **22** is a structure having a decorative design. Any shaped structure is suitable, as long as the top functions to block the visibility of the light source from an observer looking at the light source.

[00049] Referring now to Figures 2 and 3, the light housing **10** also has a rear wall **24** and at least one sidewall **26**. In one embodiment, the rear wall **24** extends from and connects the top **22** of the light housing **10** to the means for securing the shield **18**. The rear wall **24** and sidewall **26** may be any shape that functions to block the visibility of the light source **12** from an observer looking from behind the light house **10**, including, such shapes as flat, round, curved, semi-circular, convex, concave, square, rectangular, or combinations or partial combinations thereof, etc. The sidewalls can extend from the rear wall **24** as far as necessary to block the visibility of the light source components. In one embodiment, the sidewalls do not substantially wrap around the light source. In other embodiments, the sidewalls extend and wrap the entire distance around the light source. Thus, in certain embodiments, the sidewalls may extend as far outward from the rear wall or as far around the light source as expedient.

[00050] In another embodiment, the rear wall **24** and sidewalls **26** are configured in the shape of specific decorative design, namely a holiday-specific decorative design. For example, the shield **14** may be designed in the shape of a Jack-O-Lantern for Halloween, a wreath or Christmas tree for Christmas, or a rabbit for Easter.

[00051] Referring now to Figures 3 and 4, in another embodiment, the rear wall **24** is semi-circular and is adjoined on each of its two horizontal ends by two sidewalls **26** which are curved and substantially match the same radius as the semi-circular rear wall **24**, so that the two curved sidewalls are contiguous with the semi-circular rear wall and together form a uniform semi-circular shape.

[00052] The light housing **10** may be constructed from any suitable material, as long as the materials are sufficiently opaque to block partially the visibility of the light source **12** from an observer looking at the light source **12** from the rear. For example, the light housing **10**, which includes all the components of a top **22**, a rear wall **24**, at least one side wall **26**, and a means for securing the shield **18**, may be constructed from any

suitable metal, plastic (e.g. thermoset or thermoplastic), composite material or cellulosic material component, or mixtures thereof.

[00053] Suitable metal materials include alloys of steel, aluminum, bronze, or iron. In one embodiment, the metal is stainless steel.

5 **[00054]** Suitable plastic materials include thermoplastic and thermoset polymers, including, but not limited to, polypropylene, polyethylene, polyethylene terephthalate, polybutane, polymethylidene, ethylenepropylene co-polymers, polyamides, tetrablock polymers, styrenic block copolymers, Santoprene®, polyhexamethylene adipamide, poly-(oc-
10 caproamide), acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene, polyvinylidene chloride, polyhexamethylenesebacamide, polyvinyls, polyurethanes, polytrifluorochloroethylene, ethylene vinyl acetate polymers, polystyrene, polyetheresters, polyvinyl chloride (PVC), polypropylene, polyacetate, cellulose acetate butyrate, polyurethanes, such as isocyanates, phenolic
15 resins, saturated and unsaturated polyesters, epoxy resins, ethylene/methacrylic acid copolymers, polyurethane elastomerics, polyamide elastomerics, and polyamides.

[00055] Suitable composite materials include, but not limited to, fiberglass.

20 **[00056]** Suitable cellulosic materials include, but not limited to, sawdust, newspapers, alfalfa, wheat pulp, wood, wood chips, wood fibers, wood particles, ground wood, wood flour, wood flakes, wood veneers, wood laminates, paper, cardboard, straw, cotton, rice hulls, coconut shells, peanut shells, plant fibers, bamboo fiber, palm fiber, and other similar
25 materials.

[00057] Referring now to Figure 2, the shield **14** and the means for securing the shield **18** comprise the light housing **10** of the present invention. The shield **14** and the means for securing the shield **18** may be manufactured as a single integral member with the shield **14** or the means
30 for securing the shield **18** can be formed as a separate unit that is attached to the shield **14** in a separate step.

[00058] The means for securing the shield **18** can be made from the same materials or different materials than the shield **14**. If made from plastic materials, the shield **14** and/or the means for securing the shield **18** may be fabricated by extrusion processes known in the art or by such molding techniques as injection molding, compression molding, blow molding, roto-molding, extrusion blow molding or by casting means, etc. If made from metal materials, on the other hand, the shield **14** and/or the means for securing the shield **18** may be produced by stamping, deep-drawing, hydro-forming, bulging, roll-forming, sintering, casting, etc.

[00059] In other embodiments, the inside of the rear wall **24** that is immediately adjacent the interior portion **20** may be covered with a reflective material or may be polished so as to more effectively serve as a reflector. In still other embodiments, the reflective material may be a reflector, which includes a reflector body having an outer surface and an inner surface. The outer surface comprises a conventional reflective surface, which reflects light emitted by light source **12** in a conventional manner. The reflective material can include, among others, such materials as glass mirrors, metal or foil. Aluminum alloy sheet material can be used as a reflective material in the present invention because of its ability to maintain a high degree of brightness during use, its formability, and its low weight. Metal reflectors are typically buffed, chemically brightened, and/or anodized to improve their resistance to corrosion.

[00060] In still further embodiments, the rear wall **24** may be provided with louvers in order to permit part of the light emanating from the light source **12** to pass through the rear wall at an angle thereby not causing any annoyance to the eyes of an observer. The louvers may be simple horizontal or vertical slits or may be any decorative design. In one embodiment, the louvers are designed with holiday-specific designs so that when light passes through the louver openings, an observer sees a visible illuminated design. For example, the louvers may be designed in the shape of a Jack-O-Lantern for Halloween, Christmas trees for Christmas, or rabbits for Easter.

[00061] In still other embodiments, the shield **14** may have indicia imprinted on its surface. The indicia may be writing or may be a decorative design. Suitable decorative designs for the indicia of the present invention include a floral, plant, or a holiday-specific design such as a Jack-O-Lantern, Christmas tree, or Easter eggs.

[00062] In yet another embodiment, each of the sidewalls **26** have an appendage or wing structure (wings) extending outwardly from each of the sidewalls **26** to further block the visibility of the mechanical components of the light source **12**. The wings may extend outward from the sidewalls **26** for any distance that is expedient for further blocking the visibility of the components of the light source from an observer. The wings attach at the juncture of where the sidewalls meet the rear wall or the wings may alternatively attach at the end of the sidewalls that is opposite of where the sidewalls connect with the rear wall. The wings may be of any suitable shape or design that functions to block visibility of the components of the light source in addition to what is already blocked by the shield **14**. The appendages or wing structures may also have a reflective coating, a reflective surface or reflective component attached thereto as described for the rear wall above. The reflective coating or reflective component can be on either side of the wing structure, but in preferred embodiments, it is located on the inside of the wings, which is the side of the wings facing the shield **14**. The appendages or wing structures may also have decorative indicia or decorative louvers as described above for the rear wall.

[00063] It should be apparent given the embodiments described herein that the shield **14** could be formed with an infinite number of shapes and sizes, including decorative shapes and sizes. It could also be one color or multicolored. For example, in one embodiment, the shield **14** is a semi-circular design that has an opaque green color and has two sharpened round metal stakes that are attached to and extend below a semi-circular curved rear wall **24** of the shield **14** and has an aperture **28** that is an arch-shaped opening in the rear wall **24** that is open and continuous with the bottom of the shield and has a top **22** that extends

from the rear wall **24** to the ends of two semi-circular curved side walls **26**. In this embodiment, the two semi-circular curved side walls **26** extend from the semi-circular curved rear wall **24** at the same circumference as the semi-circular curved rear wall **24** so that the two curved side walls **26** are contiguous with the curved shape of the rear wall **24** and form a uniform semi-circular shape.

[00064] The present invention is directed to a housing for a light source, comprising a shield having an interior portion, a top, a rear wall, and at least one sidewall, an aperture in the rear wall of the shield for removably inserting the light source, and a means for securing the shield, wherein the means for securing the shield does not attach the shield to the light source.

[00065] The present invention is also directed to a novel housing for a light source, comprising a shield having an interior portion, a top, a semi-circular rear wall, and two curved sidewalls, wherein the curved sidewalls extend from the semi-circular rear wall at substantially the same radius as the semi-circular rear wall so that the two curved sidewalls are contiguous with the semi-circular rear wall and together form a uniform semi-circular shape, an arch-shaped aperture in the rear wall of the shield for removably inserting the light source, wherein the arch-shaped aperture is open and contiguous with the lower portion of the rear wall, and a means for securing the shield, wherein the means for securing the shield comprises two round metal stakes, the metal stakes being connected to and extending below the semi-circular rear wall of the shield and function to secure the shield by inserting the stakes into the ground in close proximity to the light source.

[00066] The present invention is also directed to a novel method for shielding a light source comprising providing a shield having an interior portion, a top, a rear wall, and at least one sidewall, wherein the shield further comprises an aperture in the rear wall of the shield for removably inserting the light source, and means for securing the shield, wherein the

means for securing the shield does not attach the shield to the light source.

5 [00067] All references cited in this specification, including without limitation all papers, publications, patents, patent applications, presentations, texts, reports, manuscripts, brochures, books, internet
10 postings, journal articles, periodicals, and the like, are hereby incorporated by reference into this specification in their entireties. The discussion of the references herein is intended merely to summarize the assertions made by their authors and no admission is made that any reference constitutes prior art. Applicants reserve the right to challenge the accuracy and pertinency of the cited references.

[00068] In view of the above, it will be seen that the several advantages of the invention are achieved and other advantageous results obtained.

15 [00069] As various changes could be made in the above methods and compositions without departing from the scope of the invention, it is intended that all matter contained in the above description shall be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

20 [00070] These and other modifications and variations to the present invention may be practiced by those of ordinary skill in the art, without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention, which is more particularly set forth in the appended claims. In addition, it should be understood that aspects of the various embodiments may be interchanged both in whole or in part. Furthermore, those of ordinary skill in the art will
25 appreciate that the foregoing description is by way of example only, and is not intended to limit the invention so further described in such appended claims. Therefore, the spirit and scope of the appended claims should not be limited to the description of the preferred versions contained therein.